



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Charleston District

News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Issues Permits for Port Facility in North Charleston

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CHARLESTON, S.C. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District issued permits to the South Carolina State Ports Authority and the South Carolina Department of Transportation today allowing construction to begin on a Marine Container Terminal Facility and an access road in North Charleston, SC. The proposed terminal is designed to handle primarily containerized cargo. The development covers 286.1 acres and will support cargo marshalling areas, cargo processing areas, cargo handling facilities, and related terminal operating facilities.

“We have reached the decision to issue these permits by closely following the National Environmental Policy Act process, encouraging public input, consulting with our federal and state peers and looking at all data related to the proposed project,” said Lt. Col. Ed Fleming, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District.

The Charleston District coordinated its activities with other regulatory and resource agencies with important roles in the process. Among these agencies are the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and Bureau of Environmental Quality Control (EQC), SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and SC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

These agencies have also been involved in the review and approval of the mitigation program for affected aquatic resources and have agreed that the plan provides appropriate compensation for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources.

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“We relied on the expertise of our fellow federal and states agencies to ensure that we were developing and using accurate information to evaluate the project,” Fleming said.

Over the course of the EIS study, the Charleston District received over 800 comments from other federal and state agencies, local governments, elected officials, citizens groups, and the general public. In response to these comments, a number of studies in the EIS were modified and expanded, particularly in regard to air and water quality, traffic, and noise. We also attended neighborhood meetings, held five public information workshops, and held a Public Hearing where many citizens came to ask questions and learn more about the proposed project or to submit their comments.

“Whenever we have to make a decision on a permit application, we have to balance economic growth, human interest factors and the protection of the environment,” Fleming said. “We feel confident that we’ve made a sound decision in this case, one that weighed all issues and concerns that were brought forward during our evaluation of the project.”